

Kelly G. Hyndman  
T 202-663-7407  
kghyndman@sughrue.com

June 13, 2006

Mr. Yasuhiro Fukuda  
TOMITA & MISHINA  
7F Yokohama HS-Bldg., 9-10, Kitasaiwai  
2-Chome Nishi-Ku, Yokohama  
Kanagawa, 220-0004  
Japan

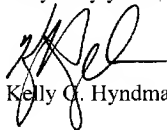
Re: U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/955,048  
Inventor: Takahiro NAKA  
Assignee: SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION  
**Filing of Information Disclosure Statement**  
Your Ref: ES170701  
Our Ref: Q66292  
**Final Due Date: None at this time**

Dear Fukuda-san:

In accordance with the instructions in your letter of May 10, 2006, we prepared and filed an Information Disclosure Statement in the above-identified application. Copies of the papers as filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are enclosed for your records.

Additionally, please find enclosed our debit note for services and disbursements. We will keep you informed of all further developments with respect to the prosecution of this application. Thank you for allowing us to be of service.

Very truly yours,



Kelly G. Hyndman

KGH/shg  
Enclosures  
CONFIRMATION COPY

**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q66292

Takahiro NAKA

Appln. No.: 09/955,048

Group Art Unit: 2876

Confirmation No.: 8499

Examiner: Lisa M. CAPUTO

Filed: September 19, 2001

For: OPTIONAL PART FOR APPARATUS, APPARATUS HAVING OPTIONAL PART,  
ACCESS DEVICE, METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING OPTIONAL PART AND INK  
CARTRIDGE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (without a Statement Under 37 C.F.R § 1.97(e)) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/955,048

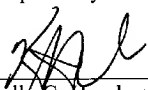
mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Kelly G. Hyndman  
Registration No. 39,234

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 13, 2006